The Noble Shaykh Rabee' bin Haadee Al-Madkhalee
(may Allah protect him)

# Boycotting the Followers of an Innovator

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**Question:**

Are the followers of an innovator also boycotted alongside him?

**Answer:**

O brothers, the one who has been misled from amongst them is to be taught. Do not be hasty, rather teach them and clarify. Indeed, many of them desire good. Even from amongst these Soofees – by Allah, if there was a Salafi effort towards them, you would see them entering Salafiyyah in groups and individually.

So, the base-rule is not to just boycott, boycott and boycott. The starting-point is guidance of the people and the inclusion of them in good. This boycotting is often misunderstood. If you were to boycott everyone then who would enter into the Sunnah? If we put obstructions and barriers between us and them and the Sunnah by means of boycotting, how will they enter the Sunnah? Boycotting, O brothers, was at the time of Imaam Ahmad, at a time when the world was full of Salafis. If Imaam Ahmad had said that so and so was an innovator, then he would have been debased. As for now, Salafiyyah is like a white hair in a black bull. Therefore, only the proud, obstinate innovator is to be boycotted. As for the misled and those that have been allured by them, then be patient with them. They are to be invited to Allah with wisdom and beautiful speech for indeed many of them will respond.

The base-rule is desiring the guidance of the people and saving them from falsehood and misguidance. So, invite them and bring them close to you. Present the people with knowledge-based beneficial books, treatises and tapes [recordings]. Use all of the legislated means of calling [to Allah] - from which are the delivery of sermons and lectures whereby, Allah-willing, a great deal of good can be attained. Also, if Allah wills, there will be a great increase in the number of Salafis and you will not lose out in guiding a great number of people. According to you all of the

people are misguided and furthermore you do not advise with anything or provide any clarification?! [This is] wrong! This means closing the doors leading to good in the faces of the people. So let it not be the case with you to only boycott, boycott.

The fundamental principal is [desiring] guidance for the people and entering them into the [way of the] Sunnah and rescuing them from misguidance. Let this be the base-rule with you. Have patience, gentleness and so forth. Thereafter, whoever is obstinate after having been given a clear explanation, then as the saying of the Prophet, sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam, goes 'the end of the final cure is cauterisation'. As for using 'cauterisation' from the beginning then this is wrong, may Allah bless you. So, O brothers let the base-rule be to rescue people. By Allah, many people want the good, they want paradise O brothers, they want good. Let your methods be wise. By Allah, employ merciful, wise methods that make him feel that you are not higher than him and that you do not desire his degradation. Be humble towards him, show mildness and gentleness towards him and convey to him with wisdom. Many of the people are grave-worshippers. Allah guided [some of] them at the hands of a few of the People of Hadeeth when they came with knowledge, wisdom and beautiful speech.

**I shall give you one example of these callers:**

Shaykh Thanaa'ullah Al-Amritsary from India was from the skilful and wise scholars . He would call to Allah with wisdom and beautiful speech. He used to debate with wisdom, proof, evidence and high moral character. Many people took an interest in, and responded to his call. This angered the obstinate scholars of evil and misguidance hence they empowered an ignorant, evil man to kill him. So this man came to Shaykh Thanaa'ullah whilst he was delivering a lecture and suddenly attacked him with a hoe (or pickaxe), striking him with a deadly blow such that he fell down unconscious. Then, the people representing the authorities came - look

how three or four of the senior students of Shaykh Nadheer Hussain turned India upside-down with their wisdom and knowledge - they (the authorities) took this criminal and put him in prison. As soon as he (the Shaykh) regained consciousness he said, “Where is the one who hit me?” They said, “In prison”. He said, “He shouldn’t be imprisoned”. However the authorities insisted upon imprisoning him. Thereafter, this forbearing, gentle individual used to spend upon the children of this criminal whilst he was in prison. As soon as he was freed, the first thing he did was visit the Shaykh and announce his acceptance of Salafiyyah and his abandonment of innovations [in the religion].

**Another example:**

In our time, the first caller to Salafiyyah in Sudan was Shaykh Hasoonah and he was a good example of patience, gentleness and wisdom. He used to actively call to Allah in the mosques and elsewhere. The people of innovation would attack him and hit him so severely that they would presume him to be dead. They would then drag him by his feet and throw him out of the masjid. On regaining consciousness the first thing he would surprise the people with was his smile. He didn’t at all insult, resent or hate anyone. Nor did he retaliate or take revenge; he did nothing of the sort. As a result of these characteristics of his many people entered The Salafi Call.

On another occasion, whilst they were on a train, the time for maghrib or isha prayer began. He led them in the prayer with a very beautiful recitation by which they were amazed. So they asked, “Who led you in prayer?” He said, “I, so and so…”. Thereupon, they [people of innovation did not like that the people were amazed by him] jumped on him and beat him severely until he became unconscious. As soon as he regained consciousness, he, as usual, would surprise the people with his smiles of contentment.

May Allah bless you, the point here is that you must have some wisdom, gentleness, patience and a good intent - May Allah bless you. By Allah, with wise character and gentleness people will respond to your call. On the other hand, if all that you do is avoid people and show harshness…

وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ

“And had you been severe and harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about you”

**[Soorah Aali ’Imraan: 159]**

O brothers, may Allah bless you, some of our brothers have excessive harshness which causes people to leave Salafiyyah or it doesn’t allow anyone to enter it. This is evident now. These harsh people who chase others away must repent to Allah, the Mighty and Majestic. May Allah bless you, they must improve their character and guide to Allah, the Mighty and Majestic. You must display this [good] character and leave this emphasis on boycotting. Boycotting is legislated, but only when you have implemented patience and gentleness, may Allah bless you. Therefore, encourage the people towards good and entering it.

Source: Based on a modified transcript (by the Shaykh himself) of part of a lecture titled: ‘Indeed Allah is pleased for you three [things] and is displeased for you three [things]’. An English translation of the book will be published soon by Miraath Publications In-Shaa-Allaah.

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